

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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R 231115 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 596

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7021

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, VS

SUBJECT: POLISH AND HUNGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM ON ICCS

REF: SAIGON 5978

1. LISTED BELOW ARE EXAMPLES OF POLISH AND HUNGARIAN CONDUCT ON THE ICCS WHICH FOR THE MOST PART HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY THE CONGENS BUT ARE BROUGHT TOGETHER IN THIS MESSAGE FOR EASY REFERENCE.
 2. ON MARCH 14, THE QUAN LONG SUB- REGIONAL TEAM INVESTIGATED A VC ATTACK ON A BAC LIEU UTPOST WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF SEVERAL SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS AND THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN. THE QUAN LONG TEAM REPORT, SIGNED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL FOUR DELEGATIONS, CONCLUDED THAT THE VC WERE GUILTY OF A CEASE- FIRE VIOLATION. AT THE REGION HEADQUARTERS (VII), HOWEVER, THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATIVES " DISAGREED" WITH THIS CONCLUSION AND REFUSED TO GIVE THE APPROVAL NECESSARY TO SEND IT FORWARD. IN- STEAD, THE REPORT WAS RETURNED TO THE QUAN LONG TEAM WHERE THE TWO EASTERN EUROPEAN SELEGATIONS DULY DISAVOVED THEIR EARLIER
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CONCLUSIONS.

3. BETWEEN MARCH 18 AND APRIL 7 ICCS REGION II (DANANG) RECEIVED 12 REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATIONS BUT WAS UNABLE TO ACT ON ANY OF THEM BECAUSE OF POLISH- HUNGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM. EACH CASE REQUIRED A FOUR- HOUR MEETING OF DELEGATION HEADS.

4. ON APRIL 6 THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE QUANG TIN PROVINCE CHIEF ASKED THE LOCAL ICCS TEAM TO INVESTIGATE A SMALL GROUND ATTACK LAUNCHED BY THE NVA ON APRIL 3 AGAINST A SOUTH VIETNAMESE OUTPOST NEAR BINH DINH VILLAGE, THANG BINH DISTRICT. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS REFUSED TO GO. THE CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS VISITED THE SITE.

5. THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATIVES ON THE VI THANH SUB- REGIONAL TEAM (REGION VII) IN TEAM MEETINGS SEIZE UPON THE MOST TRANSPARENT PRETEXTS IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO ABSOLVE THE VC/ NVA OF ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASE- FIRE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS CLAIM THAT BLOWN BRIDGES COULD HAVE COLLAPSED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND ROCKETED OUTPOSTS WERE HIT BY BANDITS. THEY ALSO TRY TO DELAY SUBMISSION OF ICCS REPORTS TO REGION HEADQUARTERS SO THAT BY THE TIME THEIR REPORTS REACH SAIGON THEY ARE SO DATED THAT NO ACTION CAN BE TAKEN ON THEM.

6. AT REGION VII (CAN THO) THE HUNGARIAN AND POLISH DELEGATIONS HAVE TAKEN TO WRITING REBUTTALS OF INVESTIGATION REPORTS ON INVESTIGATIONS IN WHICH THEY DID NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE.

7. WHEN ON APRIL 9 THE RVN ASKED FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF AN ATTACK ON THE SONG THUAN VILLAGE OFFICE, DINH TUONG PROVINCE, WHICH WOUNDED 8 PEOPLE, THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATIVES ON THE REGION VI (MAY THO) TEAM REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: A. THE RVN REQUEST SHOULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE USED THE WORD " COMMUNIST," A WORD WHICH IS NOT RPT NOT USED IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT; B. SINCE THE ATTACK WAS EIGHT KILOMETERS FROM MY THO, IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GIONG TEAM TO INVESTIGATE, NOT RPT NOT THE REGIONAL TEAM; AND C. THE RVN HAD NOT RPT NOT EXPLICITLY GUARANTEED THE SAFETY OF THE INVESTIGATING TEAM IN ITS LETTER REQUESTING THE INVESTIGATION. THE INDONESIANS AND CANADIANS CONDUCTED THE INVESTIGATION.

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8. ONE OF THE HUNGARIAN MEMBERS OF THE TRI TON SUB- REGIONAL TEAM (REGION VII) TOLD ONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES THAT HUNGARY WAS ON THE ICCS " TO PROTECT THE PRG."

9. AT REGION V (BIEN HOA) THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN DELEGATIONS,

IN SEEKING WAYS TO OBSTRUCT INVESTIGATIONS, HAVE REFUSED TO RESPOND TO RVN REQUESTS BECAUSE SUCH REQUESTS REFER TO " COMMUNIST FORCES."

10. A POLISH REPRESENTATIVE IN ICCS REGION V, AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN OBVIOUS VC SHELLING OF A SOUTH VIETNAMESE TOWN, FINALLY SAID THAT THE PRG COULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE BECAUSE " IN HIS HEART HE KNEW THAT THE PRG WOULD NEVER SHELL INDISCRIMINATELY." (FYI: A CANADIAN REPORTEDLY REPLIED, " YOU MUST HAVE FAILED YOUR COMMUNIST COURSE IN TERRORISM.")

11. ON APRIL 19 THE INDONESIAN AND CANADIAN DELEGATES ON THE REGION VII (CAN THO) TEAM INTERVIEWED AN NVA PRISONER CAPTURED

DURING THE HONG NGU FIGHTING. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE, CLAIMING THAT THE POW EXCHANGE PHASE WAS OVER AND THAT POST- CEASE FIRE PRISONERS FELL OUTSIDE THEIR LEGAL COMPETENCE. THEY WERE APPARENTLY UNINTERESTED IN DISCOVERING WHETHER THE NVA MIGHT HAVE VIOLATED PARTS OF THE AGREEMENT SUCH AS ARTICLE 7.

12. COMMENT: IN ANALYZING INSTANCES OF OBSTRUCTIONISM, WE BELIEVE THE MAJOR DISCERNIBLE EFFECT OF OUR DEMARCHES THUS FAR HAS BEEN TO CAUSE THE HUNGARIANS AND POLES TO ADOPT SLIGHTLY MORE SOPHISTICATED METHODS OF PREVENTING THE ICCS FROM CARRYING OUT ITS MISSION. BASICALLY, THEY ARE DETERMINED THAT THERE WILL BE NO UNANOMOUS REPORTS AND AS FEW AS POSSIBLE NATIONAL VIEWS WHICH PLACE THE RESPONSIBILITY ON THE VC/ NVA FOR ANY VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT. THEY HAVE EVEN, IN THE CASE OF THE SA HUYNH REPORT, ATTEMPTED TO EXPUNGE FROM THE RECORD THE ONE UNANOMOUS REGIONAL REPORT WHICH MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS CRITICAL OF THE VC/ NVA, A REPORT WHICH IN ANY CASE THEY HAD PREVENTED FROM BEING FORWARDED TO THE JMC. THE SAME " PURIFYING" APPROACH, THIS TIME BETWEEN SUB- REGION AND REGION, WAS EMPLOYED IN CASE NOTED PARA 2 OF THIS REPORT. OUR DEMARCHES HAVE ALSO, OF COURSE, CAUSED THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS TO GREATLY INCREASE THEIR CRITICISM OF THE CANADIANS; POLES AND HUNGARIANS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY HEAVY
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HANDED IN TRYING TO PERSUADE THE EMBASSY OF CANADIAN CULPABILITY FOR ICCS FAILINGS.
BUNKER

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